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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth shall declare Your praise. O Lord, give us voice that Your justice be heard again on Earth; and Your goodness be revealed in signs of unity and peace.

May all the words echoed in this Chamber today spring forth from Your spirit living in the hearts of this Nation.

Let Your truth and Your beauty be our guide as we gather to serve the common good.

We ask Your blessing now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 5 one-minutes on each side.

ELIAN'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Juan Miguel Gonzalez arrived in the United States, more than 4 months after his little boy Elian was rescued at sea under miraculous circumstances.

Elian's fate is still uncertain. However, if deported there are truths we could be certain about. If deported, Elian will become the property of the Castro regime. Castro officials themselves declared just this week that Elian is Cuba's possession.

If forced to return to Cuba, Elian will be hospitalized for an undetermined period of time, and hospitalized is Castro's euphemism for reeducation and reprogramming.

If deported, 6-year-old Elian will be subjected to the type of education pictured here where children are given combat training and are forced to use rifles and other weapons as part of their elementary school curriculum.

Despite Elian's mother's ultimate sacrifice for him to live in freedom here in the United States, despite Elian's struggle to survive the perilous journey from Castro's Cuba, despite Elian's desire to remain in the United States, his days of liberty may give way to a future of forced child labor, enslavement, and oppression.

Today may mark a sad day for democracy, freedom, and the rule of law.

ENRON FIELD, NEW HOME OF THE HOUSTON ASTROS

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a new baseball park that is opening for the Houston Astros National League opening this Friday night.

I know a lot of times Members get up, and I do it too, on 1-minutes and talk about the issues of the day, and

that is important because that is what we are here for, but it is also used to talk about things that are happening across this great country of ours.

In Houston, Texas' tomorrow night National League opener, the Houston Astros, is in our new Enron Field. Having grown up in Houston and watched the old Colt 45s in Colt Stadium and the Astros in the Astrodome, our new home, the three-time defending National League Central Champions, the Houston Astros are opening in Enron Field. It has been called the ninth wonder of the world now because it replaces the Astrodome which was the eighth wonder of the world.

The new diamond was approved by the voters and built in the heart of downtown Houston, like a lot of baseball stadiums are being done today in advancing the economic vitality of our city centers. It features 42,000 seats and all the amenities that everyone could ever imagine that those of us who grew up with baseball cannot imagine that would be available. I am proud of the Astros along with the City of Houston, and best of luck tomorrow night when they play the Philadelphia Phillies.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S TRIP TO INDIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we serve in historic times. This is the first administration in history to consume \$50 million in what amounts to a 6-day expedition. The President has just returned from an official trip to India and Pakistan. On this trip, he took 77 Air Force planes and a huge entourage. He said he was going there to try to stop the arms race between India and Pakistan. It seems that the President and his aides spent more time sight-seeing at the Taj Mahal and looking for tigers

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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than engaging in productive diplomacy, and all of this cost the taxpayers \$50 million.

How interesting that it took Ken Starr 6 years to spend that much investigating indiscretions at the White House, and the White House called that investigation a waste of taxpayer money. Think of it, 6 days of sight-seeing versus 6 years of investigations. It turns out that Starr may have been the most frugal executive branch employee of them all.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of international family planning. Today international guests from Kenya, Albania, Nigeria, Colombia, and Bangladesh will be visiting offices and participating in a forum cosponsored by the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues on why family planning matters.

They will testify with personal stories from the field on how important family planning is in saving women's lives.

In 1998, this body cut all U.S. funding for UNFPA and drastically cut USAID. Along with many of my colleagues, we fought back by introducing legislation to reinstate the U.S. contribution to UNFPA. We were successful last year in securing \$25 million. This year it is time to go back to the future, back to 1995 levels for international family planning. I hope my colleagues will take advantage of our international guests visiting with us today and take the time to speak with them on what family planning programs give to communities around the world.

I hope they will support our bill H.R. 3634, the Saving Women's Lives Through International Family Planning Act.

FEED THE POOR AND HUNGRY CHILDREN IN AMERICA WITHOUT FRAUD AND ABUSE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I support giving all the help we can to poor, hungry children in America, but when the programs that are supposed to help children are wasting money instead, that is a problem.

A recent review by the House Committee on the Budget found that the food stamp program made an estimated \$1.4 billion in improper payments in 1998, because food stamps are like currency, they can be easily used for fraudulent purposes.

For example, 14 members of an Indiana gang stole \$728,000 worth of food stamps from four county welfare of-

fices and proceeded to trade them for cocaine and explosives.

In 1995 and 1996, a total of \$8.5 million in food stamps were paid out to 26,000 dead people in four States. No one knows who cashed in the benefits.

These are types of blatant fraud and abuse that hurt the children's food stamps that were designed to help and we need to do something about it.

INVESTIGATE CHINESE THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Justice Department has attacked Bill Gates and Microsoft with a passion, literally trying to destroy the company. Meanwhile, the Justice Department refuses to investigate serious allegations of crimes involving Communist Chinese nationals and top White House officials. Something is wrong here, very wrong. Microsoft may be a threat to software, but China is an absolute threat to hardware and the national security of the United States of America.

Now we may never see the day, but I predict unless Congress intervenes, our children and their children may some day meet a massive Chinese military threat armed to their dragon teeth with arms and weapons bought by the American taxpayers no less. Beam me up.

I yield back the fact that we need an investigation into these allegations.

PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, not too long ago I gave Bill Clinton my porker award for his \$72 million trip to the African continent. Well, it looks like he is at it again. Clinton just returned from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Switzerland with not one foreign policy success. He did nothing to ease the poverty in Bangladesh, was scoffed at by the Indian parliament, dismissed by Pakistani leaders, and rebuffed by the President of Syria.

Instead, he showered the American public with photos of himself playing with elephants, dancing with, quote, empowered women and touring the Taj Mahal with daughter Chelsea.

The 10-day trip included a virtual aerial armada of 26 military cargo planes and more than 50 other support aircraft. The Air Force, which had to do 177 strategic lift missions and 460 mission launches, has estimated that the price tag for the Asian tour could top \$75 million.

Now I know the President needs to be protected but give me a break. ABC pegged this junket correctly when it said it was a protected sight-seeing tour. Bill Clinton gets my porker of the week award.

THE INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION OF GLENN GEBHARD'S CHILDREN

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue in my mission to help bring our children home. Glenn Gebhard and his twin children Glenn and Shannon are just one example of the 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries. Shortly after he was married, Glenn's ex-wife moved back to Germany and took their children with her. For 2 years, he had contact with his children; but in 1994, she decided she would have no future contact.

Glenn has gone through the German court system numerous times and has actually been told by German judges that they do not believe in the laws that provide for unquestionable rights to access.

Glenn Gebhard has done nothing wrong. He has played by the rules. He has continued paying child support, yet he has not seen his children in almost 6 years, an eternity to a 7-year-old. Physical and psychological bonds have been severed between two children and their father who loves them. American children who are being held abroad must be returned to their parents. Countries who are not abiding by The Hague convention must be entreated to do so, and I ask my colleagues not to think as Members of Congress but as parents and grandparents and work with me to solve this pervasive problem.

American children and their parents are asking for your help. Please listen.

SPENDING KEEPS GOING HIGHER WHILE SAT SCORES KEEP GETTING LOWER

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, is there a relationship between how much money is spent on education and how well students do? If I look at a graph showing SAT scores since 1960 and spending on education since 1960, I note that spending just keeps going higher and higher while SAT scores keep going lower and lower. Or if I look at how much money is spent in cities like Washington, New York, Chicago, or Kansas City, I note that school districts that spend the most money often have the lowest SAT scores, presumably meaning the worst schools.

What am I to conclude? Mr. Speaker, when I talk to teachers, and I don't mean education establishment bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., when I talk to teachers in the classroom they all agree that it is important that schools are adequately funded. But no one, virtually no one, says that money is the most important thing. So what makes